

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 05098 251855 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 041243

O P 250820 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1399

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5098

EXDIS

FOR SULLIVAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, VS, CB, LA, TH

SUBJECT: TRAVEL PLANS OF AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

1. MARSHAL LON NOL RETURNED FROM KOMPONG SOM THIS MORNING FOR WHAT I TAKE TO BE THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH YOU TOMORROW. IN A MEETING WITH ME SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN HE INQUIRED WHETHER I COULD INFORM HIM IN ADVANCE OF THE MATTERS YOU MIGHT TAKE UP, AND I REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS I KNEW YOU WISHED TO BRIEF HIM ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DRV IN PARIS. I ASSUME THAT THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, TOGETHER WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CHHAN SOKHUM, WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

2. DURING OUR DISCUSSION THIS MORNING, THE MARSHAL EXPRESSED SOME DISSATISFACTION, WITHOUT GIVING SPECIFICS, WITH THE MODALITIES OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL. I BELIEVE HE SENSES THAT ITS OPERATIONS ARE INEVITABLY ERODING HIS OWN POWER AND HIS PREROGATIVES. SINCE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS OFF TO A REASONABLY GOOD START, WITH PUBLIC AND FANK MORALE AT LEAST STEADY
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RATHER THAN DECLINING, I THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF
YOU COULD CONGRATULATE LON NOL TOMORROW ON HIS SUCCESS
IN ENLARGING THE POLITICAL BASE OF THE REPUBLIC AND
INDICATE HOW IMPORTANT WE BELIEVE IT TO BE THAT THE
HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS NOW
ESTABLISHED.
SWANK

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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VIENTIANE
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